

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: July 16, 2007—rollcall vote 630, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1980, to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council—I would have voted “aye”, rollcall vote 631, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007, I would have voted “aye”, rollcall vote 632, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 799, Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments—I would have voted “nay.”

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
CAROL ANN CAMPBELL**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my dear friend and City Councilwoman, the Honorable Carol Ann Campbell. Just like the distinguished Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Carol Ann is the scion of a great political family. Her early years at the side of her father, the famous Edgar Campbell, prepared her well for her future leadership role. But it is her inner strength that plays the biggest part in making her who she is.

Everyone who knows Carol Campbell knows that she is a force of nature. Her drive and tenacity are matched only by her compassion and her loyalty. She has devoted her life to helping others. Her dedication to her neighbors led to tremendous public investment in her district during her time in City Council. Her advocacy on behalf of the African American community led to election of record numbers of judges and other officials. She has been the confidant of speakers, mayors, and governors and of presidents. And I am proud to say that she is my advisor, my strongest supporter and my best friend.

Madam Speaker, there aren't enough hours in the day to list the accomplishments of this great lady. But, I am proud to ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting her today.

HONORING UNITED PARCEL
SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my home town of Louisville's largest employer and one of its greatest corporate citizens: The United Parcel Service, UPS. For one quarter of UPS's 100 year history, it has located its international hub in

Louisville, Kentucky forging a partnership that has facilitated tremendous growth for both the company and our city.

Louisville has undoubtedly been good for UPS. They have built a four million square feet facility that processes more than 300,000 packages an hour, using 122 miles of conveyor belt and enough fiber optic cable to stretch from coast to coast four times. UPS went public with the highest initial public offering in the history of the New York Stock Exchange, reached a milestone that saw its services reach an astounding two-thirds of the world's six billion people, and—keeping with the times—just won the Clean Air Excellence Award for its “Green Fleet”, which has logged more than 100 million miles.

But UPS has also been very good for Louisville. Let me tell you a little bit about what Brown has done for us.

UPS employs 20,000 members of our community and will hire 5,000 more after it completes a one billion dollar renovation to our airport—only the latest major improvement at least in part due to UPS's influence. But that is just a fraction of the story. Because they are not merely jobs, but good ones. We are fortunate that our largest employer pays wages on which a family can be raised, health benefits for personnel, and even college tuition for part-time workers. Through the Metropolitan partnership with the city and area universities, UPS has paid the tuition for thousands of Louisville students, giving them a chance to pursue fulfilling careers at UPS while earning a college degree.

Of the four billion people around the world who benefit from UPS, few can claim the advantages we gain in Louisville—not just the employees, but all who are helped by their economic development initiatives, community service, and commitment to our community. I congratulate UPS—the world's largest package delivery company—on its first successful century and hope that the next one yields continued success in our home of Louisville, Kentucky.

PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, despite the backlog of passport applications and the lack of sufficient staff to accommodate the workload, passport agency personnel have done a remarkable job of assisting my constituents in getting passports. The National Passport Information Center, the Washington, DC, Passport Agency, and the San Francisco Passport Agency, in particular, have been extremely helpful. The men and women in the State Department who are meeting this administrative crisis should be acknowledged for the extra effort they have been making to ensure U.S. citizens are able to travel abroad to work, vacation, participate in church and service projects, and attend educational programs. I rise in support of S. 966 and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

RECOGNIZING 2007 AS THE YEAR OF THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN COLOMBIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last week the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved H. Res. 426, recognizing 2007 as the Year of the Rights of the Internally Displaced in Colombia. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees, UNHCR, praised its passage, noting that “It is the first time the U.S. Congress has singled out forced displacement in Colombia as one of the worst humanitarian crises on the American continent.”

More than one-third of the over 3 million internally displaced people in Colombia are Afro-Colombians or indigenous peoples. On July 11, 2007, the Association of Internally Displaced Afro-Colombians, AFRODES, issued a statement welcoming the action taken by the U.S. Congress in passing H. Res. 426 and bringing attention to the plight of Colombia's internally displaced.

I encourage my House colleagues to reflect on the words of Colombia's Afro-Colombian community and I welcome the opportunity to submit the statement of AFRODES into the RECORD of the debate on H. Res. 426.

[July 11, 2007]

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN COLOMBIA AND ITS
IMPACT IN AFRO-COLOMBIAN TERRITORIES
AND COMMUNITIES

In Colombia, a chronic and sustained humanitarian and human rights crisis persists, due to the ongoing presence of the causes of forced displacement, and the limited and contradictory security policies that the national government has adopted to stop the exodus of the population. Under the government of President Álvaro Uribe, military confrontations between the public security forces and illegal armed groups have intensified; during President Uribe's first term, there were 8,001 such confrontations, an increase of 149 percent over the 3,211 which occurred during the previous government of President Andrés Pastrana. This shows there is a greater military presence in the country, but that does not necessarily imply that conditions for the security of the civilian population are being met. In other words, there are no guarantees for the security of internally displaced communities to return to their regions of origin.

Defining the dimensions of the problem of internal displacement should be a priority, in order to define the conditions faced by victims of the internal armed conflict and thereby establish peace, justice and reparations. The System of Information on Forced Displacement and Human Rights (SISDHES), which has been operated by CODHES since 1995 and which takes into account data from the Episcopal Conference of Colombia from 1985–1994, indicates that around 3,832,527 people have been displaced during the last 20 years in Colombia (from January 1, 1985 through June 30, 2006). The United Nations just recently stated in a June 2007 report that the number of internally displaced in Colombia has reached 3,000,000. According to the U.N., out of the 13 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) their organization attended to over the past year, three million—